



Indiana Judicial Nominating
Commission

30 South Meridian Street,
Suite 500
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-4706

Application
for the Indiana Supreme Court

The application for the Spring 2016 vacancy on the Indiana Supreme Court includes two parts. Both Part One and Part Two must be completed. Part Two *must* be provided separately as directed in the instructions. Answers in Part One and Part Two are a matter of public record and will be supplied to the media and public upon request. However, only answers in Part One may be posted online by the Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission.

Part One, Sections 1-11

1. Contact/General Information

A. Full legal name and any former names.

- Sally Ann McLaughlin
- Former names: Sally Ann Turner (1952-1972); Sally Ann Slayback (1972-1986); Sally Ann Dierking (1986-1999); Sally Ann Blankenship (1999-2014)

B. State the full name (use initials for minor children), age, and relationship of each person residing in your household. For each adult living in the household (other than yourself), also state the person's occupation and employer.

- Elmer George McLaughlin, Husband, Age 64
President/Chief Executive Officer
United Community Bank

C. Business address, email, and telephone number.

Dearborn Superior Court 2
Dearborn County Courthouse
215 W. High St.
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
smclaughlin@dearborncounty.in.gov
812-537-8800

D. Attorney number.

- 15413-15

E. Month and year you were admitted to the Indiana Bar.

- October, 1990

a. Indicate current law license status, i.e. active/inactive/retired.

- Law License Status: Active

b. If you are or have been a member of the Bar of any other state, identify the jurisdiction and provide date(s) of admission and current license status.

- N/A

F. Date and place of birth.

- Born December 7, 1952 in Greensburg, (Decatur County) Indiana

G. County of current residence and date you first became a resident.

- County of Residence: Dearborn County
 - Residency began in 1955 and continuous except for period from August 1972 through August 1978 when resided in Lexington (Fayette County) Kentucky

2. Secondary Education/Military Experience

A. List all undergraduate colleges and universities you attended. Include the school name; dates enrolled; degree or certificate earned; and any academic honors, awards, or scholarships you received and when.

- **Eastern Kentucky University**

- Dates enrolled: August, 1970 – May, 1972
- **Degree earned: Associate of Arts in Nursing**
- *Academic Honors: CWENS, Woman's Honorary Society, 1971 – 1972*

- **Eastern Kentucky University**

- Re-enrolled: August, 1974 – December, 1977
- **Degree earned: Bachelor of Science in Nursing**
- *Scholarship: Veterans Administration Hospital – partial tuition awarded*

- B. Include with your original application a certified transcript from each school named in Subsection 2A, and attach copies of each transcript to each application copy.
- Certified transcripts from Eastern Kentucky University included in appendix
- C. If applicable, list any military service. Include the name of the military branch; dates of service; last rank achieved; and any honors, awards, or commendations received and when. Attach a copy of your Certificate of Release or Discharge from active duty (“DD 214” paperwork).
- No military experience. (While I was not privileged to serve in the military, I chose to work in the Veterans Administration Hospital in respect for those who did serve, observing firsthand the effects of combat on our Veterans in the Vietnam Era and the residual effects of those serving in WWI and WWII.)

3. Post-Secondary Education

- A. List all law schools, graduate schools, and post-J.D. programs attended. Include the school name; dates enrolled; degree or certificate earned; class rank; and any academic honors, awards, or scholarships you received and when.
- **University of Cincinnati**
 - Dates enrolled: August, 1983 – December, 1984
 - Worked towards Master of Science in Nursing
 - Attended while Director of Nursing
 - *Scholarship: University of Cincinnati Nursing academic scholarship/full tuition*
 - **Salmon P. Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University**
 - Dates enrolled: August, 1986 – May, 1990
 - **Degree earned: Juris Doctor, May, 1990**
 - Class Rank 13/43
 - Attended night program while Director of Nursing
 - Academic Honors/Achievements:
 - Law Review, 1988-1990
 - Moot Court Board: 1988-1990
 - National Moot Court Competition, University of Cincinnati, Products Liability; Semi Finalist, Spring, 1989.
 - National Moot Court Competition, John Marshall University, Fall, 1989

B. Include with your original application a certified transcript from each school named in Subsection 3A, and attach copies of each transcript to each application copy. (If your social security number is on your transcripts, redact it *before* copying.)

- Certified transcripts included in appendix.

4. Employment

A. Provide your employment history since graduation from college. Include name of employer, titles or positions, locations, and dates of employment.

May, 1972 – August, 1972

Staff Nurse, Dearborn County Hospital

Lawrenceburg, Indiana

- Temporary entry level position after graduation

August, 1972 – August, 1978

Registered Nurse, Veterans Administration Medical Center

Lexington, Kentucky

- Staff nurse position on various surgical units including Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, Renal and Chest-Thoracic Surgery serving Veterans of the Vietnam era through W.W.I.
- Promoted to Assistant Nurse Coordinator with management and patient care responsibilities on surgical unit.
- Appointed to Education Committee
- Earned Bachelor of Science degree while working in these positions

September, 1978 – August, 1981

Coordinator, Home Health Program

Rural Health Activities Southeastern Indiana

Lawrenceburg, Indiana

- Management Position for initiative through the Department of Health Education and Welfare to bring more physicians and allied health services to Southeastern Indiana.
- Responsibilities included Grant preparation, oversight, and implementation of first certified Home Health Care Program expanding to five county area in Southeastern Indiana.
- Selected to speak at regional conference for Department of H.E.W. on our Home Health Care Program, Chicago, Illinois, 1980.

August, 1981 – May, 1984

Director of Education, Dearborn County Hospital

Lawrenceburg, Indiana

- Hired into newly created Director of Education Position after joint venture with hospital initiating first Diabetic Education Program in area.
- While Director of Education, developed and implemented staff, patient, and community education materials and programs. I was also part of a collaborative effort for hospital sponsored “Health Works”, the first annual screening and educational health fair in area.

May, 1984 - June, 1990

Director of Nursing, Dearborn County Hospital

Lawrenceburg, Indiana

- Promoted to Director of Nursing reporting to the Chief Executive Officer.
- Responsibilities included quality of nursing care, budget, and staffing for all Nursing units, Emergency Room, Surgery, and Education Department. Served as Nursing Liaison on Medical Staff Quality Assurance Committee.
- Implemented major restructure of Nursing Clinical Care. Initiated partnership with Xavier University to develop management training for Nursing Clinical Coordinators. I also implemented a decentralized system of nursing to increase quality and efficiency of patient care.
- Integral role in initial hospital conversion to computerized technology.
- *While in position attended University Of Cincinnati pursuing a Master’s degree and Salmon P. Chase College of law earning a Juris Doctor.*

April, 1990 – May, 1992

Manager of Patient Services, Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Cincinnati, Ohio

- Nursing Management position responsible for problem solving, and administrative support during night and weekend hours for large metropolitan children’s hospital affiliated with the University of Cincinnati.
- This position was responsible for staffing of all Nursing Units including specialized units such as Neo-natal Intensive Care and Emergency Room; and coordinated with Social Services, Physicians, and Ancillary Departments; and this position was the hospital Media Liaison during weekend and night hours.
- *Held position part-time while studying for Indiana Bar Exam and in first years of practice to maintain family insurance and supplement income.*

October, 1990 – December, 1994

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Seventh Judicial Circuit

Dearborn and Ohio Counties

- Served as part time Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for then Prosecutor James D. Humphrey while also maintaining civil law practice.
- Position responsible for Jury Trials and management of primarily misdemeanor and D felony cases with several opportunities to work with major felony cases.

October, 1990 – December, 1994

Attorney, Private Practice

Lawrenceburg, Indiana

- Office affiliated with Attorney John J. Dornette.
- Civil practice that included Family Law, Civil Torts, Insurance Law, Workman's Compensation, Contracts, and Bankruptcy.

January, 1995 – December, 2005

Prosecuting Attorney, Seventh Judicial Circuit

Dearborn and Ohio Counties

- First elected woman Prosecuting Attorney for Dearborn and Ohio Counties and elected three consecutive terms.
- Responsible for the budget, staffing, and oversight of the office. Trial Attorney for major felonies, murder, and Juvenile Court.
- As Prosecutor, applied and received funding to implement Juvenile Drug Court.
- "Hub" Prosecutor for adult Protective Services for Dearborn, Ohio, Ripley, Switzerland, and Jefferson Counties.
- Implemented victim advocate program.
- Implemented technology in court room and use of power point presentation in jury trials.
- Developed child forensic training in affiliation with Children's Hospital and the University of Cincinnati for team of law enforcement officers, social workers, and Deputy Prosecutors prior to the availability of the Child Advocacy Center.

January, 2006 – Present

Judge Dearborn Superior Court II

Lawrenceburg, Indiana

- Appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels to serve as the first Judge of Dearborn Superior Court 2 and then elected for two terms.
- Implemented new court comprised of a varied docket including family law, civil tort claims, major criminal felony cases, misdemeanors, small claims, and protective orders.
- Implemented initiatives to promote community safety and education, and address important judicial issues in our community. A certified alcohol and drug education program and the Jail Chemical Addiction Program (JCAP), which is an evidence based program certified by the Indiana Department of Mental Health.

B. If applicable, describe the nature and extent of your practice of law (present and former), and provide the names of your partners, associates, office mates, and employers.

- I had the privilege of being in private practice and a part-time Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the first four years of my legal career. Although I originally pursued a legal education to provide expertise in legal, medical, and administrative issues, an unexpected opportunity developed. I was in the process of interviewing with firms in the Greater Cincinnati area and studying for final year mid-terms when I received a call inquiring if I would be interested in working as a part-time Deputy Prosecutor and affiliate in private practice with Attorney, John J. Dornette, an experienced litigator who had an active civil practice. With four children, and the youngest only six months old, I explored the opportunity and have found a challenging way to practice in my hometown utilizing my expertise ever since.
- In private practice I had the opportunity to assist Attorney John J. Dornette with several civil tort claims representing the insurance carrier of the defendant including discovery, depositions, and preparation of motions and briefs. I also had the opportunity to pursue my own practice that included family law, workman's compensation claims, social security disability, property law, guardianships and estates. I represented Plaintiffs in civil tort claims and participated in mediation. I had the opportunity to work with attorney Gary Kemper in Jefferson County on a case involving a will contest involving several trusts with the case resolved in mediation.

- I had the privilege to serve as a part-time Deputy Prosecutor for the Hon. James D. Humphrey who was in his second term as Prosecuting Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit and worked with other Deputy Prosecutors including Arnold McGill, Joseph Kisor, and David Zerbe.
- In 1995 and for the next eleven years I had the humbling privilege of serving as the Prosecuting Attorney for Dearborn and Ohio Counties. I chose to be a full-time Prosecuting Attorney and from 1995 through 2005, I focused solely on the responsibilities of Prosecuting Attorney in Dearborn and Ohio counties.
- As Prosecutor, my experience quickly expanded to responsibilities that involved legal management of criminal cases from investigation phase through discovery, negotiations, and trial. The responsibilities as Prosecutor included coordinating with all law enforcement agencies in Dearborn and Ohio Counties, Department of Child Services, and other agencies. As Prosecutor, I was responsible for the budget, operations, and overall quality of the office, and coordinated with the County Commissioners and County Council in Dearborn and Ohio Counties. As Prosecutor, I was also responsible for IV-D (child support) and paternity actions which are civil in nature. Adult Protective Service responsibilities required coordinating with other elected Prosecutors as well as nursing care facilities and physicians in Southeastern Indiana.
- Through this position I had the opportunity to work with several attorneys serving as Deputy Prosecutors including Arnold McGill, F. Aaron Negangard, M. Joseph Kisor and Jonathan Cleary.

5. Trial/Judicial Experience

A. Describe the extent of your jury trial experience, if any.

- As an attorney in private, civil practice, I had the opportunity to assist attorney John J. Dornette in a jury trial involving liability and damages in a multi-vehicle accident involving serious injuries.
- As a new Deputy Prosecuting Attorney I had the privilege to be the trial attorney on multiple criminal jury trials, including cases involving operating while intoxicated with serious injury, theft, battery, drug

possession, and other criminal actions. I also represented the State in a civil paternity trial.

- As the Prosecuting Attorney, jury trial experience expanded to include major felony jury trials including murder, attempted murder, reckless homicide, child molestation, domestic violence with serious injury, rape, neglect of a dependent with serious injury, complex while collar crime, and bank robberies.

B. Describe the extent of your bench trial experience, if any.

- Civil Bench Trials as an attorney include multiple family law matters, small claims, and property law cases.
- Criminal Bench Trial experience as Deputy Prosecutor and Prosecutor include multiple juvenile adjudications, IV-D paternity and child support matters, probation violations, misdemeanor bench trials, and Felony bench trials where the right to a jury trial was voluntarily waived by the Defendant.

C. If applicable, describe the nature and extent of your judicial experience (including as a judge *pro tempore*). Include a description of your experience presiding over jury trials, if any.

- I have had the humbling privilege of serving as Judge of Dearborn Superior Court II for a little over ten years. Although I had limited experience in Civil Jury Trials, I found that my extensive jury trial experience as Prosecutor was a great asset in presiding over civil matters.
- As Judge I have presided over several civil Jury Trials including a contract dispute and claim for damages: **Lawrenceburg Urgent Care, P.C. et al vs. Alan Kohlhaas M.D. et al.** in cause number 15D02-0703-CC-035; a contract dispute involving an architectural group and a municipality in which \$2,220,000.00 dollars in damages were awarded: **Middle Earth High St., LLC vs. City of Lawrenceburg et al.** in cause number 15D02-1003-CT-004; and several Jury Trials involving automobile accidents including **Ann Schulz vs. Bryan Fields, et al.** cause number 15D02-1006-CT-007 and **Robin Carl vs. Jaresa Darden et al.** cause number 15D02-1212-CT-060.

- Judicial oversight of criminal Jury Trials includes misdemeanor cases such as operating while intoxicated and major felony cases including child neglect resulting in serious bodily injury, child molestation, rape, forgery, burglary, and multiple dealing in heroin or narcotic drug cases with amounts ranging from three milligrams to over two kilograms. I also have trial experience involving non-English speaking defendants and have utilized certified interpreters during trial. (*State vs. David Reyes-Valdes*, cause no. 15D02-1310-FA-023).

6. Professional Experience

Include as writing samples, four selections (in total) from the written materials listed below in Subsections 6A – 6C.

A. If applicable, list up to five trial or appellate briefs and/or judicial opinions you have written. Refer to them by caption, case number, and filing date.

- In *Re the Marriage of Kenneth Hake, v. Bertha Hake* filed brief on behalf of appellee on October 27, 1994 in the Indiana Court of Appeals, cause number 15A04-9305-CU-191.
- *In Re: the Visitation of J.H. and J.H.*, cause no. 15D02-1509-DR-167, judicial opinion filed November 13, 2015.
- *Auto Owners Insurance Co. vs. American Family Mutual Insurance Company*, cause No. 15C01-1403-PL-015, judicial opinion filed December 23, 2014.
- *Hidden Valley Lake Property Owner's Association vs. Gerald Parrish*, cause No. 15D02-1504-PL-026, judicial opinion filed August 17, 2015.
- *State of Indiana vs. Kathy Hess*, cause No. 15D02-1503-FB-006, judicial opinion filed June 9, 2015.

B. If applicable, list up to five legislative drafts or court rules you have written or to which you contributed significantly. Refer to them by official citation, date, and subject matter. (not applicable)

C. If applicable, list up to five of your contributions to legal journals or other legal publications. Provide titles, official citations, and a brief description of the subject matter. (not applicable)

D. Identify the five most significant legal matters entrusted to you, whether as a judge or lawyer, and describe why you believe them to be so.

All matters entrusted to me, whether as a lawyer or judge are significant and impact lives. Those that affect our constitutionally protected rights are most significant. These are five of the most entrusted legal matters I have handled.

• **State of Indiana v. Michael Scroggins II, cause no. 39-D01-1008-FC-638**

I served as Special Judge of Jefferson Superior Court in this complex criminal matter in which the Defendant collided head on with a vehicle of three ladies traveling together to training in Madison, Indiana. Many lives were impacted. Two of the three women lost their lives leaving a void in the lives of their families and the community. The third woman suffered injuries such that she was required to retire early from her life long career. The Defendant was a young man who had also been injured and was facing years of jail time. There were several important and unique pre-trial issues requiring judicial decisions including causation of the collision, impaired driving, and expert scientific evidence. Each were critical decisions affecting the young man's destiny. The case was ultimately resolved by a plea agreement in which the Defendant plead to two counts of Reckless Homicide and one count of Criminal Recklessness with several counts including Operating While Intoxicated and The Habitual Substance Offender Enhancement dismissed by the State.

This case was also significant in that it required balancing the impact of the crime on the victims in the community; the potential rehabilitation efforts to support mitigation of sentence for the Defendant; and community safety. After much thought and review, I determined that the totality of the circumstances combined with the Defendant's past failure to respond to short term incarceration, failure to participate fully in prior rehabilitation efforts, and history of traffic offenses, required that the Defendant be sentenced to the maximum sentence of twenty-four years. The sentence was affirmed by the Indiana Court of Appeals.

Also significant, is that this case highlights the importance of focusing resources on rehabilitation and accountability such that individuals are involved in adequate assessment and appropriate evidence based

programs and are held accountable in lower level offenses to prevent tragedies like this from impacting lives and communities in the future.

- **Cases involving children as victims**

As Prosecutor I was involved in multiple cases where children were victims of abuse and neglect. One of the most difficult was *State of Indiana vs. Donald Riehie*, Cause No. 15C01-0303-FA-003. This case involved facts that average citizens would find beyond comprehension. In this case, a seven year old was being provided to the Defendant, an employed utility worker active in his local church, for sex in exchange for monies and gifts the defendant provided the little girl's mother. The little girl had two younger sisters. All three children were placed in foster care during the investigation and charges were also brought against the Mother. The case involved weighing the impact of the little girl testifying at trial (as she was already suffering emotional issues including alopecia), against the continued harm if she and her sisters were returned to her Mother.

The case was significant in that it combined collaborative efforts among several investigative agencies and social services to culminate in justice being served. Also significant is that this case resulted in a happy ending for the victim. She and her two sisters were placed together with a family who sought their adoption and later gave me pictures of the girls in their youth soccer league. They were healthy and happy girls living how every little girl should have the opportunity to be.

- **White Collar Crime**

Cases involving white collar crime, particularly where a governmental official is involved "harms all members of the public.. and the crime is more difficult to detect and may justify a stricter penalty for the sake of deterrence." Quoting the Honorable Judge Baker in *Cole v. State*, 790 N.E.2d 1049 (Ind. Ct. App. 2003).

As Prosecuting Attorney, I represented the State in *State of Indiana v. Debra Cole*, Cause No. 58C01-006-CF-004 involving white collar crime of governmental funds by the Director of Visitors and Tourism for the city of Rising Sun, Indiana. Complex analyses of multiple financial

records were involved in the investigation of this case. The case also required presentation of multiple financial records and analysis in a format that could be understood by the jury. The case was investigated by a special statewide division of the Indiana State Police.

This case was significant in that it included allegations of corruption involving a respected community member. The Defendant's long standing position in the community was balanced against public trust in the course of the investigation.

The convictions for Knowing Failure to Deposit Funds, a Class B Felony and Obstruction of Justice, a Class D Felony, were upheld on appeal.

The case represents the importance of our system of justice in the role of maintaining protection of our citizens' tax dollars and maintaining the integrity of our governmental entities.

- **Family Law issues particularly those involving child custody**

As an attorney in private practice and as Judge, I have found this to be an area that is of true significance because the decision impacts society's most precious resource: children and their families. In understanding this significance, I have utilized mediation services to promote compromise to maintain family civility, court appointed *guardian-ad-litem*s to represent the interests of the child, and required parenting classes, counseling services, and the use of other specialized programs for communication and problem solving. I find, as Judge, that through court hearings and decisions, one of my most significant roles is to promote positive actions of both parents to focus on the best interests of the children.

- **Matters involving the Mentally Ill, Handicapped and Aged.**

As Prosecutor, I handled through a grand jury, a tragic case involving the death of a young man with Down syndrome who died of suspicious injuries in a home staffed by Rescare. Through this case our office, law enforcement, and community service agencies became better informed and made significant improvements to address cases like this in the future.

I had the privilege of serving on the *Governor's Commission on Community and Home Based Services* and as an advisory member in 2002 through 2003. At the time I was a “hub” prosecutor for Adult Protective Services serving multiple counties in Southeastern Indiana. I was recommended by the Executive Director of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorney Counsel, Mr. Steve Johnson, and appointed by Governor Frank O'Bannon. The Commission was tasked with discussing and delivering recommendations to the Governor on the important needs of protected persons and their integration into communities across the state.

This Commission dealt with significant issues that impact many who cannot speak up for themselves. Those involved shared invaluable information and experiences that were not only included in the report but were carried out in each participant's community and role they represented on the commission.

In 2007, I was included as a Judicial Representative in a National Training and Community Collaboration Directive that was funded through a grant obtained by the Community Mental Health Center to address mentally ill in our justice system. I have incorporated these concepts in problem solving approaches with the elderly, mentally ill, or disabled involved as parties in court proceedings.

This issue is of continued significance as the incorporation of more mentally ill in our communities is mandated by the closure of many mental health inpatient facilities. While this originally occurred to promote integration into the community, it has now evolved into the more difficult dilemma of finding resources other than jail or homelessness when the mentally ill are unable to function in their community housing.

7. Efforts to Improve the Legal System, Administration of Justice, or Society

Throughout my career I have been passionate about Children's issues and improving lives. The impact of legal issues on health care was one of the forces that directed me to Law School. The tragic death of my younger sister, the victim in an armed robbery also provided an additional stimulus to be a positive force in the lives I have touched. My life experiences and background in health care have impacted my legal career which has also been shaped by my experience as a young mother who was required to work through college and law school in order to have

the opportunity of a legal career. The administrative experience, collaborative skills, and strength that have resulted from these experiences have been an asset to me in these initiatives.

A. Describe your efforts, achievements, or contributions (including written work, speeches, or presentations) toward the improvement of the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice. Include a description of any management or leadership roles you undertook to achieve these goals, and describe any specific instances in which your collaborative efforts helped achieve these goals.

- **Implementation of Certified Juvenile Drug Court**

- As a new Prosecutor in 1995 my responsibilities included Juvenile Court. Drugs were impacting our community. Resources for rehabilitation were limited. There was only one Juvenile Probation Officer for Dearborn and Ohio counties and no drug testing was available through probation. No local tax dollars were there to promote solutions. While looking into potential funding, the concept of a Juvenile Drug Court was discovered. The task included obtaining a federal implementation grant by a Prosecutor's office (not the typical grant writer for drug courts) and assembling a team including our Circuit Court Judge, defense attorney, Sheriff, and Juvenile Probation Officer. The Judge was very involved in Juvenile efforts but had reservations. The Dearborn-Ohio Prosecutor's Office obtained the federal grant which involved several national training programs including onsite visits of existing Juvenile Drug Courts. A federal implementation grant and a \$100,000.00 grant from the Greater Cincinnati Health Foundation was later awarded to our team.
- Together we worked to implement one of the first certified Juvenile Drug Courts in Indiana and were also one of only a few rural Juvenile Drug Court Initiatives at the time. The education and team building were invaluable assets for each of us. The program allowed for additional case management services, onsite drug testing, and impacted many young lives. The program continued after the initial Judge's retirement and our current Circuit Court Judge continued the program and later revised it into our current Intensive Juvenile Probation Program that provides case management and other positive components of Juvenile Drug Court with a more individualized approach.

- As Prosecutor, I assisted in obtaining a grant to develop a team for implementing the first Adult Drug Court in Superior Court 1 which was later implemented by Superior Court 1 and continues today.
- *Speaker: Presentation at Indiana Prosecutor Attorney Conference:* Juvenile Drug Court Initiative: organized and provided information for prosecutors across the state of Indiana on the value of a Juvenile Drug Court. (1999).
- *Speaker: Board Retreat Cincinnati Health Foundations; Juvenile Drug Court initiative in Dearborn and Ohio Counties (1998)*
- **The Jail Chemical Addiction Program (JCAP)**
 - As a new Judge in Superior Court aware of the increasing tragedy of alcohol and drug abuse on our youth, families, businesses, and communities, I attended a Judicial Seminar on A & D programs with our probation department. We left with the desire to initiate the A & D program in our community to better address rehabilitation of those with substance abuse issues. We also went to a “break-out” session with Judge McClure, Boone County Superior Court 2 on their jail program. We arranged a visit with myself, the Prosecutor, Sheriff, Jail Commander, and Probation. We left so impressed with the value of their program that we immediately began planning to implement a program in our jail.
 - With no local tax dollars, the Court applied for community grants and received approval from County Council to hire a Director with advanced education in substance abuse.
 - In 2007, the 16 bed Jail Chemical Addiction Program was implemented. In 2011, an 8 bed female pod was added through a grant from the Dearborn Community Foundation, obtained by the court. Both programs continue today and we have recently joined with Indiana University Collaborative Research Initiatives to further expand and quantify the value of this evidence based program.
 - JCAP is now an integral part of the certified Drug Court in Superior Court I in which Judge Cleary is the sponsoring Judge. The Superior Court I Drug Court and the JCAP program have combined

resources to provide evidence-based programming to improve the effectiveness of the Court's rehabilitation efforts.

- An additional asset is that JCAP and Drug Court participants and graduates are held accountable and are expected to give back to the community through education programs in our schools and Court programs in conjunction with Court staff and professional staff. Several successful graduates have implemented successful initiatives addressing abuse in our community and are making a difference.
- **Brochure on Women's JCAP:** In 2011, I initiated a project to design a brochure with the special projects director and JCAP participants. The project was funded through a grant from The Dearborn Community Foundation. The brochure spotlights the program and is a tool for community education.

- **Restructuring Community Corrections and Probation**

- An ongoing initiative that I was involved in as Judge was combining Superior Courts Probation and bringing probation and special programming such as Superior Court I's Drug Court and Veteran's Court; and Superior Court II's A & D program and JCAP under one "umbrella" with Community Corrections.
- Southeastern Regional Community Corrections (SERCC) was initiated prior to 1990 and was a progressive program when first initiated. Over the years, as evidence based programs were identified as important components of community rehabilitation programs, the SERCC, as an independent structure, struggled to incorporate those new initiatives. Starting with direction from the Indiana Department of Correction, a site visit to Bartholomew County Community Correction was initiated to address this issue.
- A team comprised of the Directors of Circuit and Superior Probation, Probation staff, the Director of Community Corrections, Community Corrections staff, and myself visited their program and a special committee of the SERCC Board of Directors began to identify a plan to implement evidence based programs and forge a closer relationship between SERCC and Probation. This was no easy task as SERCC covers three counties and three separate probation departments. After multiple planning meetings,

restructuring, and County Council support, SERCC was successfully merged under the new Director of Court Services who is also responsible for Superior Court Probation and serves as a liaison with the Dearborn-Ohio Circuit Court Probation and Switzerland County Probation.

- SERCC now has several case managers with bachelor degrees who have completed specialized training and implemented evidence based programs including: Thinking for a Change, parenting classes and effective case management. I now have the privilege to serve as Chairman of the Board of SERCC. Our scores from the Department of Correction on the quality of our programs have dramatically improved.
- Last year SERCC sponsored a community education program on the impact of rehabilitation programs through SERCC in our community that was attended by community leaders and members with positive results. Through the assistance of a grant from the Judicial Center to Superior Court II, a consultant has been hired to further promote ongoing team building and training of SERCC staff, probation officers, and Judges.

- **Leadership in Law - Internship for Students**

- This initiative has become an annual event in June of each year since 2010. It is based on a Leadership in Law Program that my daughter had attended in Washington D.C. during high school for students across the nation considering legal careers. I was interested in providing students in our communities this opportunity. Through the hard work and collaborative efforts of our state police, sheriff's department, local attorneys, prosecutor's office, probation, legislators, and our schools, I developed an annual week long summer internship with students from all of our school systems in Dearborn and Ohio counties, with students recently joining in from Ripley County.
- The program is at our Courthouse and includes observation of court hearings. It incorporates our Court strategies to address substance abuse and includes the students participating in a presentation with the participants in our Jail Chemical Addiction Program (JCAP). The State Police and Sheriff's Department set up a mock crime scene based on a real murder case in Dearborn County that I took to

trial as Prosecutor involving many interesting evidentiary issues. The Defendant was located after an America's Most Wanted episode in which our law enforcement team appeared.

- The students interview “witnesses”, collect fingerprint data and evidence, and are taken through the process of obtaining search warrants with our constitutional protections discussed along the way. The students also have a field trip to the State Police Lab in Indianapolis. On the final day, the students participate in a “Mock Trial” in Court with students participating as defense counsel, prosecutors, detectives, and evidence technicians.
- The program has been an annual event since 2010 and last year was spotlighted in the Bright Beacon newspaper. The students, parents, and all professions involved have found the experience rewarding.

B. Describe your efforts, achievements, or contributions (including written work, speeches, or presentations) concerning civic, political, or social issues. Include a description of any management or leadership roles you undertook in this area, and describe any specific instances in which your collaborative efforts in this area led to a successful result.

- **Women Empowering Women Initiative**

- I had the privilege of being one of four community leaders who were given the opportunity to work with the Dearborn Community Foundation to develop an initiative to utilize an endowment dedicated to women's issues. After multiple planning meetings we came up with a concept to have a luncheon with a professional speaker and incorporate into the program a grant award. The planning committee was then expanded to other community leaders.
- The first annual Women Empowering Women (WEW) program was in the spring of 2008 with over 100 participants. Three community non-profit programs impacting women, children and/or families were spotlighted, each receiving a small grant.
- The second annual program had over 200 participants and in addition to our speaker, the three grant recipients from the previous

year gave a brief synopsis of how they used their grants, and three new organizations were awarded grants. In addition, all area high schools participated.

- The program continued annually and now sponsors an annual grant for a non-traditional student to Ivy Tech. This program has brought to the forefront important issues impacting families and children in our community, bringing a wide variety of women and even men from varying socio-economic backgrounds together.
- The program supports building positive strengths in girls and women and promoting volunteerism.

- **Women of Distinction**

- This is an annual event of the Dearborn Chamber of Commerce which I have been privileged to participate in each year and attracts 200 – 250 businesses and community leaders each year.
- I was humbled to be honored as one of the first “Women of Distinction” and have participated in the selection process in each subsequent year.
- *Women of Distinction Keynote Speaker, 2013*

- **Leadership Forum – Ivy Tech Community College**

- In 2014, I was selected to be *keynote speaker at Ivy Tech’s 2nd Annual Leadership Lecture Series* after Tyrone Rose, the Student Success Manager, heard the talk I presented at the Chamber of Commerce on my personal path to my current leadership role which was a great opportunity to inspire other women who are non-traditional students.

- **Citizens Against Substance Abuse**

- I have participated in planning meetings, education programs, and written articles for our local newspaper on behalf of this organization whose purpose is to address substance abuse issues in our community.

- ***2015 Innovator of Change Award*** from Citizens against Substance Abuse for implementing multi-level approach to substance abuse in our community

- **Victim Advocacy Program**

- As Prosecutor, I developed a structured Victim Advocate Program to assure victims of crimes were kept informed and that the special needs of victims were addressed. Strong liaisons were established with social workers and volunteers.
- As Prosecutor, I obtained a grant to provide a “child friendly” interview room with ability to video tape and allow key social workers and investigators to observe, when no child advocacy center was available in our area.
- As Prosecutor, I also initiated an ongoing victim advocate recognition program recognizing law enforcement, social service workers, physicians, EMT’s, and other community members instrumental in cases involving victims of crimes of the preceding year. The program was attended each year by 150 to 200 community leaders and was used also as an opportunity to educate the community of important issues in our community justice system.
- Received ***Indiana Prosecutor of the Year Award*** from the Indiana Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, 1999.
- Received ***Indiana Coalition against Sexual Assault Outstanding Law Enforcement***, 1997, for efforts in this area of victim advocacy.

C. Describe your efforts, achievements, or contributions (including written work, speeches, or presentations) to improve your local, state, or national community through charitable work or public service. Include a description of any management or leadership roles you undertook in this area, and describe any specific instances in which your collaborative efforts in this area led to a successful result.

- **School Programs**

The privilege of participating with programs in the schools is one of the favorite aspects of my legal career. I have participated and initiated multiple education programs in our schools on our system of justice. Programs have focused on self-esteem issues and substance abuse among other topics. A brief synopsis includes:

1. Constitution Day

I have participated for many years to share with students the enthusiasm for getting to live in a country with our constitutional freedoms. I have utilized the programs developed through the Judicial Center, as well as other programs I have designed. The program on Jury selection that was designed to promote student participation was so popular that I was asked to return to present to additional classes.

2. Career Day

Annual event at Greendale Middle School where I have had the opportunity to share my enthusiasm for our legal system and legal careers for the past twenty years.

3. Project Lead

Have presented programs through Project Lead in conjunction with Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service in area schools to discuss Juvenile Court concepts annually for many years.

4. Elementary School Programs

Participate in reading days, and “Bully Bowl”, an innovative game show approach at Lawrenceburg Elementary School to teach kindness and to promote anti-bullying actions. Have assisted in recognition programs for disadvantaged students to promote their confidence and self-esteem.

5. Girl Empowerment Program

This program was developed by a joint effort of school counselors of each of our school systems to promote good decision making of 7th and 8th grade girls. I participated in this program first as the keynote speaker in the first event and thereafter in one of the break-out sessions. This is an annual event involving role playing in a Courtroom scenario to share information on pertinent legal issues, and help the girls with decision making and leadership skills in an innovative way that encourages active participation.

- **Juvenile Diversion Program**
 - Since becoming Judge of Superior Court II, which does not have juvenile court jurisdiction, I have volunteered and participate in a bi-monthly program and panel presentation for parents and their child as part of a Juvenile Diversion Program.
 - The program which I helped to design includes a two hour session with just the juveniles and a second program with the parents that includes a panel discussion on substance abuse and accountability
- **Community Education Raising Awareness of Domestic Violence**
 - Served on the Board of Directors of two separate non-profit domestic violence shelters while Prosecutor, Turning Point located in Columbus Indiana and Safe Passage located in Batesville, Indiana. Both provide services in multi-county areas in southern Indiana. I was involved in victim recognition and domestic awareness programs.
 - I participated in the production of an educational video tape funded by Hillenbrand Industries while on the Board of Safe Passage which promotes community awareness of domestic violence
 - Keynote Speaker for multi-county event sponsored by Safe Passage in 2004.
- **United Fund**
 - Served several years on the Board of Directors for United Fund for Dearborn and Ohio Counties. The organization promoted many service and non-profit community organizations in area including girl scouts, boy scouts, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and other organizations.
- **Dollars for Scholars**
 - Served on the planning committee and first board of the South Dearborn Dollars for Scholars Program to initiate continuing

scholarships for South Dearborn students and later as Judge participated in a fundraiser by playing basketball at an event with a “Harlem Globetrotter type team.”

D. Describe the nature and extent of any *pro bono* legal services you have contributed.

- While in private practice assisted with legal work with the planning committee for the Dearborn Adult Center which is a non-profit community center with services and activities for senior citizens and community members.
- While in private practice participated in planning committee and helped with initial legal work for habitat for humanity.
- Participate annually in local Martin Luther King Jr. service day by participating in event which also coincides with effort to promote equal access to legal resources.

➤ ***Received Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award in 2011***

E. Indicate your experience teaching law. Provide the dates, names of institutions or programs, and a description of the subject matter taught.

- Ivy Tech Community College, Adjunct Faculty Member: Introduction to Criminal Justice – Spring 2013 and Spring 2014

8. Memberships and Other Activities

A. List any memberships and offices you have held in professional organizations, including dates and descriptions of the purposes of the organizations and of your involvement.

- **Indiana Home Health Association**
 - Member, 1978 – 1981
 - Board of Directors, 1980 – 1981
- **Indiana Association of Nurse Executives**
(Chapter of Indiana Hospital Association)
 - Member, 1984 – 1990

- Chairman, Southern Division, 1986 – 1987
- Board of Directors, 1987 – 1990
- **Indiana Association of Prosecuting Attorney's**
 - Board of Directors, 1999 – 2005
 - Secretary/Treasurer, 2003 – 2005
- **National District Attorney Association**
 - Member, 1995 – 2004
- **Indiana Bar Association**
 - Member, 1990 – present
- **Dearborn County Bar Association**
 - Member, 1990 – present
- **Community Relations Committee, Judicial Conference of Indiana**
 - Member, 2007 – 2014
- **Board of Directors Southeastern Indiana Community Corrections**
 - Member, 1995 – 2005; 2011-Present
 - President, Board of Directors, 2015 – 2016
- **Juvenile Detention Center Board**
 - Member, 1995 – 2005
- **Board of Directors of the Judicial Conference of Indiana**
 - Member, 2015 – 2016

B. List any memberships and offices you have held in civic, charitable, or service organizations, including dates and descriptions of the purposes of the organizations and of your involvement.

- **Turning Point, Columbus, Indiana**
 - Non-profit Domestic Violence Shelter and provider of victim services for multi-county area in southern Indiana
 - Board of Directors, 1996 – 1998
- **Safe Passage, Batesville, Indiana**

- Non-profit Domestic Violence Shelter
- Board of Directors, 2003 – 2005
- **Greendale Cemetery Board, Greendale, Indiana**
 - Membership of Board which is responsible for overseeing historic community in Dearborn County, 2004 – Present
- **Dearborn County American Heart Association**
 - Promotes Healthy Lifestyles
 - Member 1982- 1991
 - Assisted in funding drives and projects
- **United Fund, Dearborn and Ohio Counties**
 - Board of Directors, 1995 – 1999

C. List any memberships you hold in social clubs or organizations. If any restrict its membership on the basis of race, sex, religion, or national origin, please describe your efforts within the organization to eliminate restrictions.

- **Review Club, Lawrenceburg, Indiana**
 - Ladies book review club dating back over 100 years. Membership limited to women (would welcome men, but none have inquired)
- **St. Lawrence Church, Lawrenceburg Indiana**
 - Lifelong member

D. Describe your hobbies and other leisure activities.

I enjoy family time with my husband, children, and grandchildren. I enjoy following high school, college, and professional sports. This year I have had added enjoyment attending the University of Cincinnati Women's Soccer games to watch eldest granddaughter who is on the team. I also enjoy history, reading, walking in charity 5k events, vacations, Broadway shows at Aronoff, and time with friends.

9. **Legal Proceedings**

A. List any lawsuits or legal proceedings in any jurisdiction, including but not limited to bankruptcies, dissolutions, and criminal matters to which you have been a party. Provide dates, case numbers, courts, names of other parties, and, if needed, a brief explanation. (If minor children are involved [i.e. an adoption], use initials only.)

- *In Re the Marriage of Michael Slayback vs Sally Slayback*; Dearborn Circuit Court, cause number: #24145. Dissolution, 1984.
- *In Re the Marriage of Sally Dierking vs William Dierking*, Ripley Circuit Court, cause number: 69C01-9507-DR-0075. Dissolution, 1996
- *In Re the Marriage of Sally Blankenship vs Charles Blankenship*, Shelby Superior Court, cause number: 73D01-1101-DR-007. Dissolution, 2011
- *Robert C. Lang and Jennifer Lan vs William P. Dierking and Sally Dierking*, Dearborn Circuit Court, cause number 15C01-9409-CP-0094

Issue involving real estate sale; case dismissed by plaintiffs.

- *Eastern Indiana Treatment Center, Inc., vs Sally Blankenship as Prosecutor of Dearborn County*, United States District Court, Southern District of Indiana, Indianapolis Division; cause number: 1P02-779-C-H/K

Eastern Indiana Treatment Center is a for profit methadone clinic that at the time of the lawsuit was one of the largest methadone clinics in the tristate area. Multiple investigations were in the process involving Methadone patients selling their methadone on the street, some resulting in overdoses; impaired driving by methadone clients resulting in at least two separate fatalities including a young mother and her infant, and a senior citizen hit by a methadone client on his way to visit his wife in a nursing home. The lawsuit was initiated after the Prosecutor sought and received several subpoenas from the Courts for individual methadone patient records and other issues. The case was resolved with a compromise improving the method in which the Prosecutor's Office sought records and the methadone clinic improving in addressing public safety concerns.

B. If you ever have been arrested or cited for any violation of the law other than for routine traffic violations, provide dates, jurisdictions, and an explanation of the event and its resolution.

None

- C. If you have been disciplined or cautioned, formally or informally, by the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission, by the Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications, by the Indiana Supreme Court, or by similar entities in any other jurisdiction, identify each instance by date, case number (if applicable), and describe the circumstances and the nature of the outcome or resolution.

None

- D. If you have any outstanding federal, state, or local tax obligations, please itemize and explain.

None

10. References

- A. Provide the names of three attorneys who have been your professional adversaries in your practice or who have litigated substantial cases in your court and who would be in positions to comment on your qualifications for appointment to the Indiana Supreme Court (contact information to be included in Part Two of this application).
- Mr. Robert Ewbank
 - Mr. Aaron Negangard
 - Mr. Michael Hollenbeck
- B. Provide the names of three professional references other than those listed in Subsection 10A (contact information to be included in Part Two of this application).
- Honorable James D. Humphrey
 - Honorable John G. Baker
 - Justice Michelle M. Keller
- C. Provide the names of three personal references other than those listed in Subsection 10A or 10B (contact information to be included in Part Two of this application).

- Mr. Art Little
- State Senator Chip Perfect
- Ms. Liz Morris

11.State Police Release Form and Photograph

- Complete a State Police release form printed on green paper (you may obtain the release form by contacting the Nominating Commission Office at 317-232-4706). Include the release form with the original application only and not with the copies.
- Attach a recent photograph of you to the front of the original application and to each copy of your application. (This allows the Commission members to put a face with a name if you are interviewed in person.)

Date

Applicant Signature

Printed Name

